

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for audibly annunciating at a device information transmitted over a telephone network, the information being transmitted in the form of a modulated signal to the device wherein the modulated signal is representative of the information, the apparatus comprising:

    a receiver for capturing a ring signal and a modulated signal representative of information transmitted over a telephone network during an interval between the ring signal and a subsequent ring signal;

    a converter in communication with the receiver for converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible signals; and

    a speaker in communication with the converter for producing audible sounds corresponding to the stream of audible signals representative of the information received over the telephone network.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the information is received during an interval between ringing signals transmitted over the telephone network.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a memory circuit in communication with the receiver for storing the information.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a demodulator for demodulating the modulated signal received from the telephone network and generating therefrom a stream of characters representative of the information.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a processor for converting the modulated signal into a stream of characters representative of the information.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprising a memory circuit in communication with the processor, wherein the processor stores the character stream in the memory circuit.
7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the modulated signal includes information identifying an originating telephone subscriber line, the information being selected from the group consisting of message type, message length, parameter type, parameter length, originating telephone number according to a directory listing, name associated with the originating telephone number according to the directory listing and a checksum.
8. A telephone comprising:
  - an apparatus for audibly annunciating at a device information transmitted over a telephone network, the information being transmitted in the form of a modulated signal to the device wherein the modulated signal is representative of the information, wherein the apparatus comprises:
    - a receiver for receiving a modulated signal representative of information transmitted over a telephone network during an interval between ringing signals;
    - a converter in communication with the receiver for converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible signals; and
    - a speaker in communication with the converter for producing audible sounds corresponding to the stream of audible signals representative of the information received over the telephone network.

9. The telephone of claim 8, wherein the information is received during an interval between ringing signals transmitted over the telephone network.
10. The telephone of claim 8, wherein the apparatus further comprises a memory circuit in communication with the receiver for storing the information.
11. The telephone of claim 8, wherein the apparatus further comprises a demodulator for demodulating the modulated signal received over the telephone network and generating therefrom a stream of characters representative of the information.
12. The telephone of claim 8, wherein the apparatus further comprises a processor for converting the modulated signal into a stream of characters representative of the information.
13. The telephone of claim 12, wherein the apparatus further comprises a memory circuit in communication with the processor, wherein the processor stores the character stream in the memory circuit.
14. The telephone of claim 8, wherein the modulated signal includes information identifying an originating telephone subscriber line, the information being selected from the group consisting of message type, message length, parameter type, parameter length, originating telephone number according to a directory listing, name associated with the originating telephone number according to the directory listing and a checksum.
15. A method for audibly annunciating at a device information transmitted over a telephone network, the information being transmitted in the form of a modulated signal to the device wherein the modulated signal is representative of the information, the method comprising:

receiving a modulated signal representative of information transmitted over a telephone network during an interval between a ring signal and a subsequent ring signal; converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible signals; and providing the stream of audible signals to a speaker in communication with the converter for producing audible sounds corresponding to the stream of audible signals representative of the information received over the telephone network.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein receiving the modulated signal further comprises receiving the information during an interval between ringing signals transmitted over the telephone network.

17. The method of claim 15, further comprising storing the information in a memory circuit in communication with the receiver.

18. The method of claim 15, further comprising demodulating the modulated signal received over the telephone network and generating therefrom a stream of characters representative of the information.

19. The method of claim 15, further comprising converting the modulated signal into a stream of characters representative of the information.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising storing the characters in a memory circuit in communication with a processor.

21. The method of claim 15, wherein receiving the modulated signal further comprises capturing information contained within the modulated signal identifying an originating telephone

subscriber line, the information being selected from the group consisting of message type, message length, parameter type, parameter length, originating telephone number according to a directory listing, name associated with the originating telephone number according to the directory listing and a checksum.

22. An apparatus for audibly annunciating at a device information transmitted over a telephone network, the information being transmitted in the form of a modulated signal to the device wherein the modulated signal is representative of the information, the apparatus comprising:

means for capturing a ring signal and a modulated signal representative of information transmitted over a telephone network during an interval between the ring signal and a subsequent ring signal;

means for converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible signals in communication with the receiver; and

means for producing audible sounds corresponding to the stream of audible signals representative of the information received over the telephone network in communication with the converter.

23. A telephone comprising:

means for audibly annunciating at a device information transmitted over a telephone network, the information being transmitted in the form of a modulated signal to the device wherein the modulated signal is representative of the information, wherein the means for audibly annunciating comprises:

means for receiving a modulated signal representative of information transmitted over a telephone network during an interval between ringing signals;

means for converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible signals in communication with the means for receiving; and

means for producing audible sounds corresponding to the stream of audible signals representative of the information received over the telephone network in communication with the means for converting.

24. A system for audibly annunciating at a device information transmitted over a telephone network, the information being transmitted in the form of a modulated signal to the device wherein the modulated signal is representative of the information, the system comprising:

means for capturing at a receiver a ring signal from a telephone network;

means for receiving a modulated signal representative of information transmitted over a telephone network during an interval between the ring signal and a subsequent ring signal;

means for converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible signals; and

means for providing the stream of audible signals to a speaker in communication with the converter for producing audible sounds corresponding to the stream of audible signals representative of the information received over the telephone network.

25. An apparatus for audibly annunciating at a device information transmitted over a telephone network, the information being transmitted in the form of a modulated signal to the device wherein the modulated signal is representative of the information, the apparatus comprising:

a receiver for capturing a ring signal and a modulated signal representative of information transmitted over a telephone network during an interval between the ring signal and a subsequent ring signal, the receiver providing the subsequent ring signal to a telephone ringer after receiving the modulated signal;

a converter in communication with the receiver for converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible signals; and

a speaker in communication with the converter for producing audible sounds corresponding to the stream of audible signals representative of the information received over the telephone network.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the information is received during an interval between ringing signals transmitted over the telephone network.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a memory circuit in communication with the receiver for storing the information.

28. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a demodulator for demodulating the modulated signal received from the telephone network and generating therefrom a stream of characters representative of the information.

29. The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising a processor for converting the modulated signal into a stream of characters representative of the information.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising a memory circuit in communication with the processor, wherein the processor stores the character stream in the memory circuit.

31. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the modulated signal includes information identifying an originating telephone subscriber line, the information being selected from the group consisting of message type, message length, parameter type, parameter length, originating

telephone number according to a directory listing, name associated with the originating telephone number according to the directory listing and a checksum.

32. A telephone comprising:

an apparatus for audibly annunciating at a device information transmitted over a telephone network, the information being transmitted in the form of a modulated signal to the device wherein the modulated signal is representative of the information, wherein the apparatus comprises:

a receiver for receiving a modulated signal representative of information transmitted over a telephone network during an interval between ringing signals, the receiver providing the subsequent ring signal to a telephone ringer after receiving the modulated signal;

a converter in communication with the receiver for converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible signals; and

a speaker in communication with the converter for producing audible sounds corresponding to the stream of audible signals representative of the information received over the telephone network.

33. The telephone of claim 32, wherein the information is received during an interval between ringing signals transmitted over the telephone network.

34. The telephone of claim 32, wherein the apparatus further comprises a memory circuit in communication with the receiver for storing the information.

35. The telephone of claim 32, wherein the apparatus further comprises a demodulator for demodulating the modulated signal received over the telephone network and generating therefrom a stream of characters representative of the information.

36. The telephone of claim 32, wherein the apparatus further comprises a processor for converting the modulated signal into a stream of characters representative of the information.

37. The telephone of claim 36, wherein the apparatus further comprises a memory circuit in communication with the processor, wherein the processor stores the character stream in the memory circuit.

38. The telephone of claim 32, wherein the modulated signal includes information identifying an originating telephone subscriber line, the information being selected from the group consisting of message type, message length, parameter type, parameter length, originating telephone number according to a directory listing, name associated with the originating telephone number according to the directory listing and a checksum.

39. A method for audibly annunciating at a device information transmitted over a telephone network, the information being transmitted in the form of a modulated signal to the device wherein the modulated signal is representative of the information, the method comprising:

capturing at a receiver a ring signal from a telephone network;

receiving a modulated signal representative of information transmitted over a telephone network during an interval between the ring signal and a subsequent ring signal;

converting the modulated signal into a stream of audible signals;

providing the stream of audible signals to a speaker in communication with the converter for producing audible sounds corresponding to the stream of audible signals representative of the information received over the telephone network; and

providing the subsequent ring signal to a telephone ringer after receiving the modulated signal.

40. The method of claim 39, wherein receiving the modulated signal further comprises receiving the information during an interval between ringing signals transmitted over the telephone network.

41. The method of claim 39, further comprising storing the information in a memory circuit in communication with the receiver.

42. The method of claim 39, further comprising demodulating the modulated signal received over the telephone network and generating therefrom a stream of characters representative of the information.

43. The method of claim 39, further comprising converting the modulated signal into a stream of characters representative of the information.

44. The method of claim 43, further comprising storing the characters in a memory circuit in communication with a processor.

45. The method of claim 39, wherein receiving the modulated signal further comprises capturing information contained within the modulated signal identifying an originating telephone subscriber line, the information being selected from the group consisting of message type,

message length, parameter type, parameter length, originating telephone number according to a directory listing, name associated with the originating telephone number according to the directory listing and a checksum.